



Slideshow

RSA Conference 1991 to 2021

RSA Data Security Conference 1991

- The RSA Data Security Conference was created in 1991 by RSA Data Security Inc. It focused on one key cryptography issue that was very important to RSA itself: DES vs DSS security standards. DES was a widely adopted security standard that RSA created for digital signatures that was challenged by the DSS security protocol.

[Photo Source](#)



Sink Clipper RSA 1994

- The clipper chip was a chipset designed by the NSA (and released in 1993) with a built-in backdoor that allowed government officials to decode telecommunications. It used a key escrow system where every new clipper chipset would receive a cryptographic key that the NSA would receive in escrow. This chipset and the corresponding encryption protocol (Skipjack) threatened the DES security protocol that RSA Data Security developed. Accordingly, RSA started a campaign against the chip, and senators such as John Kerry voiced their opposition to the chip. Additionally, stronger cryptography protocols (such as PGP) were developed; technology companies hoped that by developing stronger protocols, the NSA's clipper chip would no longer be a viable option for companies. By 1996, the clipper chip was technologically obsolete and defunct.

[Photo Source](#)



Bill Gates RSA 2004

- Bill Gates famously predicts the future death of the password at the conference, citing users' use of common passwords across several platforms. The recent rise in two factor identification seems to be a manifestation of Gates' prediction from 2004.

[Photo Source](#)



Bill Clinton RSA 2011:

Former President Bill Clinton talked about public policy and the economy, during and after his administration up to the Financial Crisis of 2007, and how the way in which the economy grew during that time period (consumer spending, housing and finance) was self-limiting and destined to fail. He also pointed out how IT professionals are like the modern cop of today, in that they are tasked with protecting incredibly valuable hardware and information.

[Photo Source](#)





William Shatner RSA 2014

- Shatner performed a cybersecurity version of the famous Beatles song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.

[Photo Source](#)

Stephen Colbert RSA 2014

- The colorful comedian gave a controversial speech about the NSA and privacy. Many people behind the scenes urged him to pull out from the event due to the RSA's alleged involvement with the NSA. Allegedly the NSA paid RSA \$10M dollars to incorporate an easily breakable encryption algorithm (DUAL_EC_DRBG) into the encryption product BSafe. This allows the NSA to easily decrypt data that uses this protocol, in effect giving the NSA a backdoor into this data

"We can trust the NSA because without a doubt it is history's most powerful, pervasive, sophisticated surveillance agency ever to be totally pwned by a 29-year-old with a thumb drive," joked Colbert.

[Photo Source](#)



Jane Lynch RSA 2015

- Jane Lynch opened the RSA conference in 2015 with a hacker-themed re-imagining of David Bowie's famous song Changes.

[Photo Source](#)

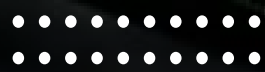


Neil deGrasse Tyson RSA 2017:

- Neil deGrasse was featured as one of the keynote speakers at RSA in 2017 and provided insights (and jokes) about astrophysics and chemistry.

[Photo Source](#)

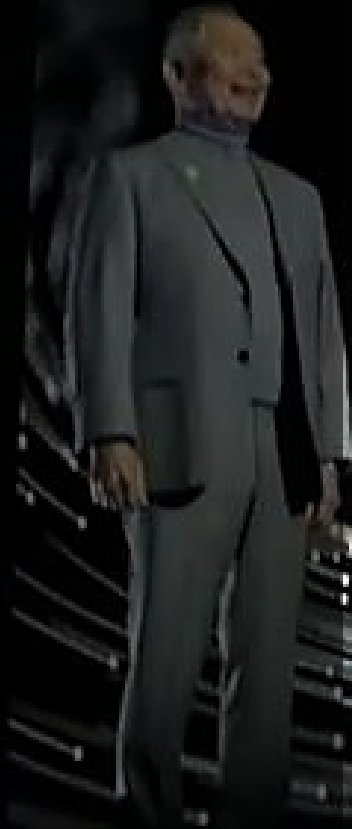




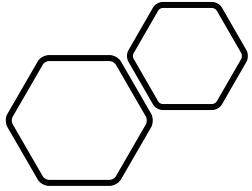
George Takai RSA 2020:

- The iconic Star Trek actor was featured as the opener for RSA 2020, one of the last conferences in 2020 before the world shut down due to COVID-19. Takai provided an inspirational speech centered around the human experience (the focus for RSA 2020).

[Photo Source](#)



GEORGE TAKEI



Steve Wozniak RSA 2021:

- Wozniak sat down with Hugh Thompson for an interview in Thompson's backyard as part of the virtual RSA 2021 experience.

[Photo Source](#)



Steve Wozniak
Co-Founder, Apple Computer Inc



End Slideshow

RSA Conference 1991 to 2021